



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
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November 4, 2019

## **COUNCIL VOTES ON MEASURE TO EXTEND LIFEGUARD HOURS**

The Honolulu City Council will vote on Bill 39 to establish a program in the Department of Emergency Services to serve public safety and welfare by extending lifeguard services at public beaches from sunrise till sunset.

Bill 39 was introduced by Councilmember Kymberly Pine of District 1 after hearing from many lifeguards and community members about the urgent need to patrol City beaches beyond normal work hours.

**“It really is a life and death matter,” said Councilmember Pine. “For the safety of our residents and visitors and for their peace of mind, our amazing City lifeguards came out in force to support this legislation.”**

Currently, most lifeguards are on duty from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. but nearly 20 percent of emergencies happen outside those normal business hours. Supporters of Bill 39 point to a pilot program that began earlier this year at Hanauma Bay where lifeguards work four 10-hour shifts because it’s resulted in lives saved and improved employee morale.

The City administration supports the intent of the bill, but expressed concern about the cost and resources to expand lifeguard hours. If the bill passes, the director of Emergency Services shall begin implementing a program no later than July 1, 2021 to extend lifeguard services.

Bill 39 will go before the full Council for its Third Reading on November 6, 2019 at Honolulu Hale. It passed Second Reading and public hearing on September 4th then went back to the Public Safety Committee on October 24<sup>th</sup> where it was reported out for Third Reading. All legislation is subject to change pending the final vote.

For more information on the Honolulu City Council or if interested in testifying, please go to the following web sites: <http://www.honolulucitycouncil.com/> or <http://www.honolulu.gov/council>

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